

THE POULTRY INDUSTRY IN THAILAND

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The importance of the Poultry Industry

Outside of the poultry-minded and poultry-educated circles, it is not generally known that the poultry industry is one of the most important agricultural industries of the world, yielding an income worth 220,000,000,000 Baht (two hundred twenty billion Baht) annually and the industry is still growing rapidly.

If Thailand develops her poultry industry up to the average world level, her just share of income from this source would be 2,000,000,000 Baht (two billion Baht) a year with the possibility of getting double that amount or 4,000,000,000 Baht (four billion Baht) if she specializes in it, if she is far sighted enough, and enough thought is given to it.

Thailand is suitable for poultry

The favorable natural environment such as plentiful sunshine, high rain fall, even temperature, good soil fertility combined with cheap land, low labor cost and all year round availability of cheap feed, make Thailand one of the places most suitable for poultry production and poultry industry. In this regards she is better or at least equal to any country in the world. So Thailand's potentiality in the poultry industry is, indeed, very great. The sooner we Thai realize the natural advantages and the big potentiality in poultry as stated above, the better.

Problems facing the Industry

To promote the poultry industry in Thailand, we will have to face several problems, e.g. the lack of poultry knowledge, the prevalence of poultry diseases, the small consumption of eggs, the lack

of capital and the lack of market. The solution to these problems lies in poultry education and extension, poultry research and vaccine production, education to increase consumption of eggs, establishing agricultural credit and disseminating propaganda, etc. The time and money used to solve the above problems will be costly but if well-planned and well-organized, much of both will be saved.

Thailand's Poultry History

Poultry have been raised in Thailand for meat and eggs and also for fighting purposes since time immemorial. However, about 60-70 years ago along the seacoast provinces where sea foods such as small sea fishes and sea shells are available and abundant, duck raising became very popular and the practice increased gradually until it became a well established industry about 50 years ago, producing now about 300,000,000 duck eggs annually.

The development of a modern poultry industry in Thailand

Since the war the Thai poultry industry has started on the path of progress and the most important step was the introduction, by Kasetsart University, of the best laying strains of the Single Comb White Leghorn, the Single Comb Rhode Island, the Barred Plymouth Rock and the New Hampshire from the United States of America and the importation of the best Australorps from Australia.

These birds and their crosses lay so well in Thailand (highest record 322 eggs in 365 days) that within four years we were able to encourage the people to become interested and to see the possibility of commercial egg-production. As a result, about 100 poultry farms ranging from 250 to 3,000 birds capacity sprang up in the outskirt of the city of Bangkok; and many more are coming.

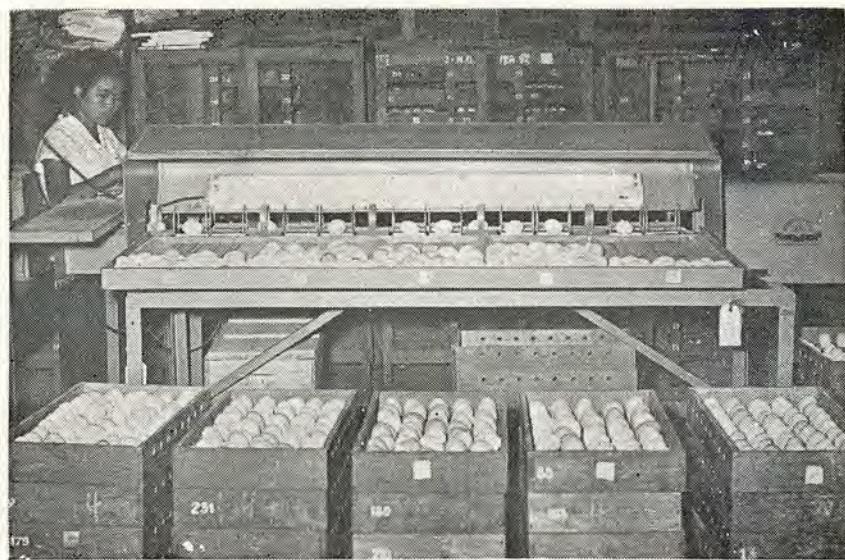
The battery system of egg production was introduced and adapted in Thailand by Kasetsart University in 1949. The system was so successful that a 15,000 bird demonstration flock was set up to show the people a safe and practical way of producing table eggs for market. Many commercial poultry farms are now using this system of egg production and are getting very satisfactory results.



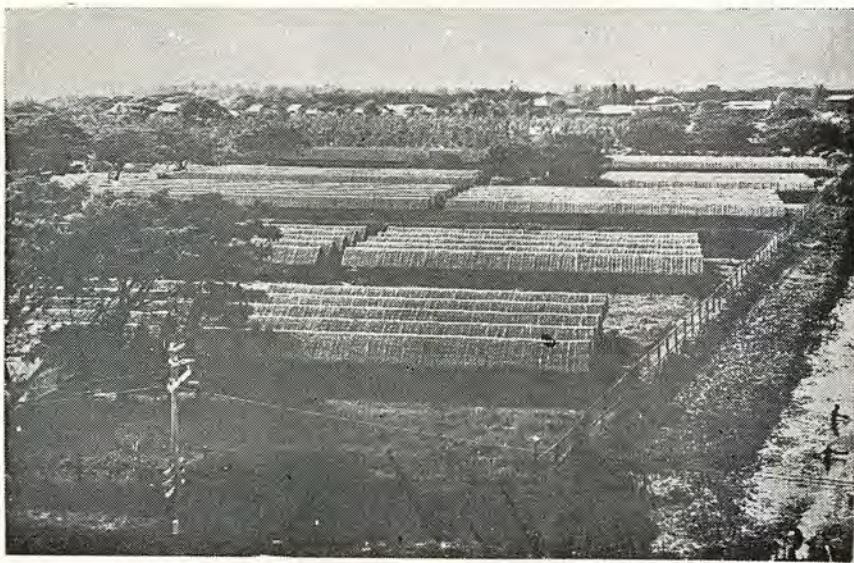
Entrance to the Battery House Compound



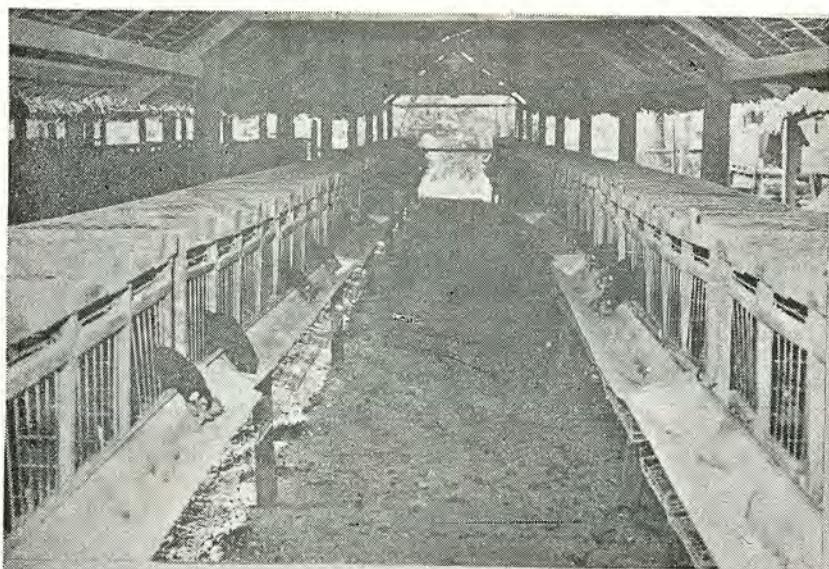
The College Hatchery



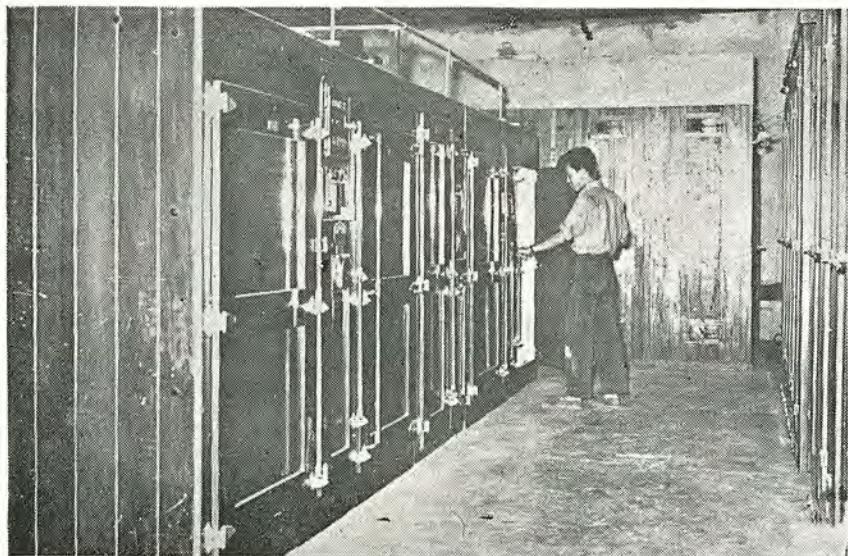
Grading Eggs Before Marketing



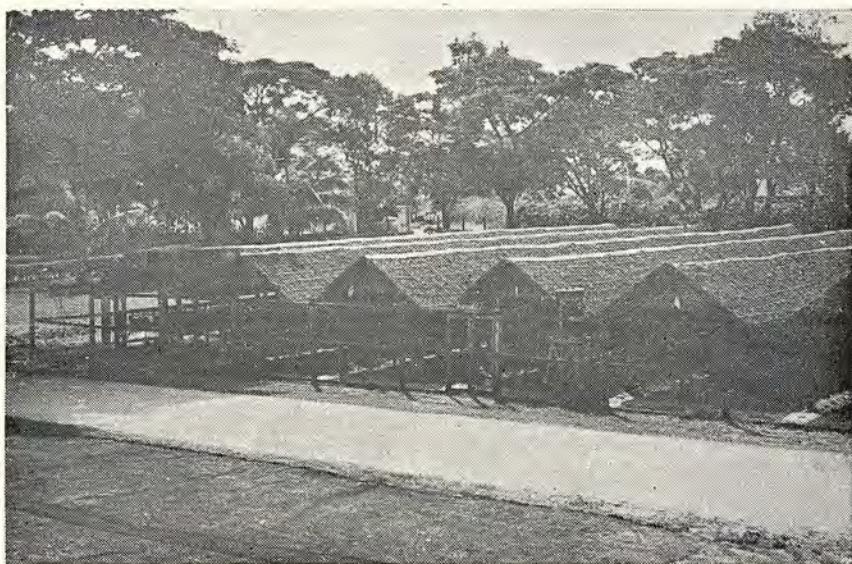
Chicken's Colony Holding 10,000 Laying Hens (in Batteries)



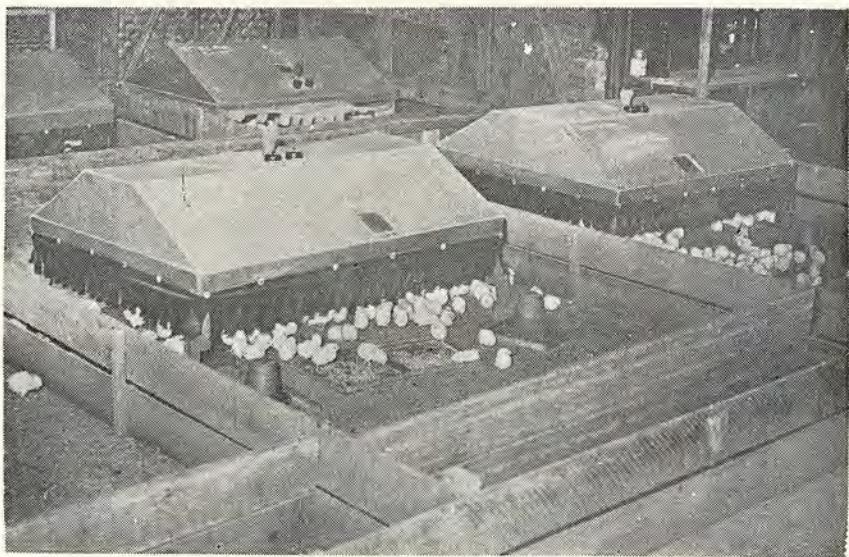
Inside the Eggs Laying Contest House



Inside the Incubating Room Holding 18,000-20,000 eggs



Batteries House Showing Roofing Materials (Napa Palm)



A-Day-Old Chicks in Brooders

In conjunction with the battery system Kasetsart University is using the artificial insemination method of breeding from the caged birds to get hatching eggs for the modern 65,000 egg hatchery set up for the purpose of producing baby chicks for distribution to the people at cheap prices. The hens are inseminated every four days and average fertility of around 90 per cent is achieved. A new method of chick sexing through the use of sexing machine or sexoscope was also tried and found practicable. A speed of 600 chicks an hour, with an accuracy of 100 percent, has been reached by our young assistant Nai Pathom, who has had experience in sexing over 100,000 baby chicks. After the sexer gains experience there is no injury to the chicks. We have trained a few sexers in this new method who are now earning money as professional sexers.

An important role in the development of poultry has been played by the Poultry Promotion Association of Thailand, an organisation set up by a few interested people 15 years ago. It now has 2,500 members, and is under the patronage of His Majesty the King. The Association publishes a monthly poultry magazine, the Sarn Kai (Poultry Massenger) in Thai, which has a circulation of 3,500 copies monthly. The Association has sponsored an egg laying contests for the last 10 years.

The latest contest record (The 10th Egg Laying Contest 1952-53, 365 days) is as follows:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Number of birds entered | 225 |
| Average annual production | 216.23 |
| Average for Single Comb White Leghorns | 233.9 |
| Average for Rhode Island Reds | 193.6 |
| Average for Australorps | 139 |
| Average for Crosses | 180.8 |
| Average for Barred Plymouth Rocks | 206.4 |
| Highest hen record | 314 |
| Number of 300-egg birds | 7 |
| Total mortality | 14.2 |

Kasetsart University's poultry ration has influenced the poultry development in Thailand. Formerly there was no feeding standard in the country, and it took us 15 years before our formula became popular and generally used. The ration is partly responsible for the high production at the egg laying contest shown above. It is as follows:

Kasetsart University Ration

| | | |
|--|----|-----|
| Rice bran | 60 | kg. |
| Broken rice | 8 | " |
| Ground corn | 8 | " |
| Ground peanut oil cake | 8 | " |
| Ground mung bean (green gram) | 4 | " |
| Fish meal | 10 | " |
| Ground oyster shell | 2 | " |
| Ground dried legume leaf (leucaena Glauca) | 3½ | " |
| Table salt | 1 | " |
| Cod liver oil | 1 | " |

Other factors of importance in awakening interest in the value of poultry in Thailand are the poultry radio talks and the publication of poultry articles in our farm magazine, the Kasigorn (Agriculturist). After strenuous and continued efforts for the last 30 years I have been able to create interest to the extent that poultry topics are discussed regularly among certain classes of people. In addition, short courses during the summer at Kasetsart University and short radio courses are found to be of great help in extension work.

Last, but not least, was the assistance of F.A.O. in 1951 in sending two experts, Dr. F.M. Fronda, of the Philippines, a production expert, to work at Kasetsart University for one year, and Dr. John G. Campbell, a pathologist, from Scotland, to the Animal Promotion Department also for one year. Dr. J.E. Lancaster, another pathologist, from England, was sent by F.A.O. to continue Dr. Campbell's work, while the place of Dr. Fronda was left unfilled due to the inability to get a suitable replacement.



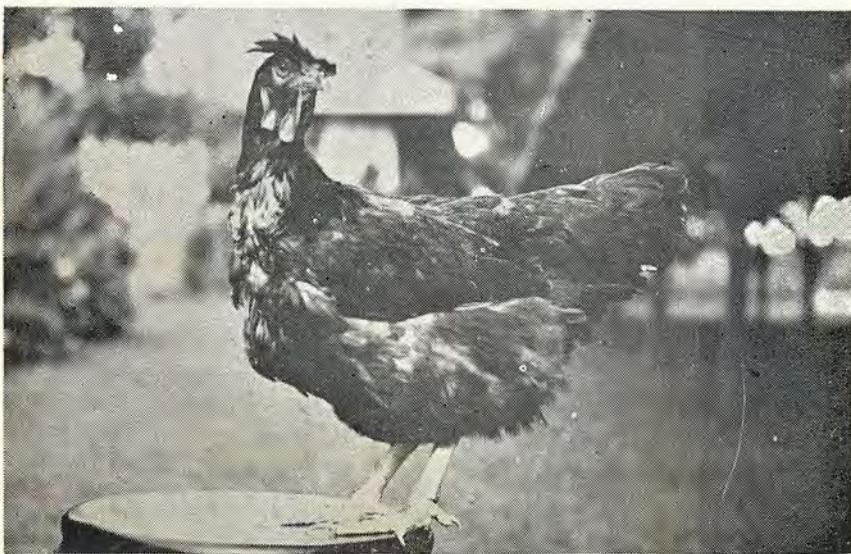
Selling Eggs at the Egg Center



Transport Eggs to Market



Battery Brooders



College Best Layer in 1954 Record of 344 Eggs



Sexing Day Old Chicks



Pilot Feed Mill Established July 14, 1955

This paper would not be complete if mention were not made of His Majesty King Phumipol and the Premier, Field-Marshal P. Pibulsongkram, both of whom are strong supporters of poultry development in Thailand. The King distributed eggs from the Royal flock to the patients in the various hospitals and chicks to the Royal house-hold officials to start their own flocks. The Premier has given his support freely to the development of the Poultry Promotion Scheme since the beginning.

As a result of the above encouragement, many commercial poultry farms are growing up in and around Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. Egg production increased so rapidly that at present the supply can more than meet the demand.

To support the modern poultry industry, two mills, one a fish meal and another a feed mill were successfully established.

Although Thailand is still an under-developed country in many ways, as far as her poultry industry is concerned, it can be said that she is ahead of most of the South-East Asian countries. For this reason Thailand is co-operating and helping her neighbours in their poultry development projects as much as she can.

